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Rogers Wants Committee To Oversee CIA Work

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WASHINGTON — The sounds can now be heard again in the House and Senate as legislators hear calls for the creation of a joint committee to oversee the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency.

And one of them is Rep. Paul Rogers, Democrat of West Palm Beach.

It all comes in the wake of stories detailing the 15 years of covert funding by the CIA of private foundations and organizations.

A story in "Ramparts" magazine kicked off the stories although the New York Times a year ago ran a series detailing CIA activities in this and other questionable areas.

Rogers said Tuesday that he again will introduce a bill to form a combined House-Senate committee to oversee the work of the agency that gathers international intelligence for the nation, and, for the last 15 years, apparently has been doing more than just intelligence gathering.

The purpose of the Rogers' bill and similar bills which have been introduced in previous sessions and will be reintroduced in the next few weeks would be to provide a specific congressional committee with jurisdiction over CIA activities.

Only the armed services committees in the House and Senate have been very close to CIA activities in the past, and their functions have not been functions of specific control over the agency.

"The hassle points up the desirability of such a committee to oversee the intelligence work of this government, and what coordination is done between military intelligence, the FBI, and the CIA in tying together their information gathering operations," Rogers said.

Rogers acknowledged that armed services and appropriations committees have been briefed in the past on CIA activities, but added: "You have to wonder if those members know what is going on in the CIA."

Like most Congressmen and Senators, Rogers expressed complete surprise when the recent stories on CIA funding broke in newspapers here.

Meanwhile, CIA Director Richard Helms told a twelve-member senate Armed Services subcommittee Tuesday, his agency will withdraw its financial support from a number of non-government activities.

And the Armed Services Committee Chairman Richard Russell (D-Ga.) said:

1. His watchdog subcommittee had known about the CIA financial support for certain non-government groups from the beginning.

2. The usefulness of CIA support for the National Student Association has been destroyed but that it was "hogwash" to say there had been anything done to impinge on academic freedom to subvert youth.

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